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Emergency appeal final report Mauritania: complex emergency

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRMR004 GLIDE n° OT-2011-000205-MRT Final report 1 August 2013

Period covered by this final report:
22 December 2011 to 30 April 2013.

Appeal target: CHF 1,009,507

Appeal coverage: 76%

Appeal history:

- A **Preliminary Emergency Appeal** was launched on 22 December 2011 for a total of CHF 2,131,749 to assist the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) deliver assistance to 10,000 households (60,000 persons) with a start-up of CHF 200,000 allocated from the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)** to support this operation.
- The food insecurity **Emergency Appeal** was launched on 25 April 2012 with a reduced budget of CHF 1,794,192 to deliver assistance to 7,000 households (42,000 persons).
- **Operation update no. 1** was issued on 28 May 2012.
- The **Emergency Appeal revision** was issued on 26 November 2013. Due to lack of funding and in order to accommodate new needs with the arrival of Malian refugees, the appeal became a complex emergency. The budget was cut from CHF 1,794,192 to CHF 1,009,507 to assist 72,000 beneficiaries (12,000 households) consisting of: 42,000 food insecure beneficiaries, (7,000 households) in the Brakna region and 21,000 Malian refugees (3,500 households) in M'Béra camp and 9,000 host-community beneficiaries (1,500 households) in the village of Bassikounou, commune of Fassala in the region of Hod Chargui, in the most south-eastern part of the country on the border with Mali.
- **Operation update no. 2** was issued on 20 February 2013 requesting a two month time-frame extension to complete the last activities in the community gardens and the distribution of goats to the families of children suffering from malnutrition.



*Beneficiaries displaying their vegetables at the community garden in the Department of Maghtaa Lehjar, in the Brakna region.
Photo: IFRC/MRC*

Summary: The Mauritania appeal was the first out of the seven Sahel food insecurity appeals to be launched. The DREF allocation of CHF 200,000 allowed the Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) to respond in the early stages of the food crisis. The response was based on the twin-track approach aiming at saving lives and protecting livelihoods whilst

building resilience to minimize the impact of future droughts. The emergency assistance consisted of: food and fodder distributions; health and nutrition promotion; screening and referral of children and women suffering from malnutrition; on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

The longer-term interventions concentrated on strengthening livelihoods with agricultural support during the main as well as off-season planting, restoring the soil with tree planting and water catchments, dune retention, rehabilitating wells and solar irrigation systems, income generation, cash for work and disaster risks reduction (DRR) activities in villages of Maghtaa Lehjar department, in the Brakna region. Notable progress was achieved in improving the lives of the beneficiaries and acute rates of malnutrition in the targeted communities have disappeared.

Since the start of the conflict in the north of Mali in early 2012, the Mauritanian Red Crescent has also been responding to the needs of the Malian refugees and of the hosting communities in the Hod El Chargui region situated in the south-eastern part of the country. A total of 120 volunteers: 60 volunteers were trained to focus on the refugee community and 60 on the host-community. They have conducted sensitisation campaigns through a participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) in the M'Béra refugee camp and among the hosting population. Waterborne and water related diseases have reduced due to these campaigns.

In addition, throughout the emergency operation, the MRC has been working bi-laterally on longer-term nutritional activities with the French Red Cross Society in the Gorgol region.

Finance summary: Funding was both slow and low, from the original amount sought in the preliminary appeal of CHF 2,131,749, to the CHF 1,009,507 sought in the second budget revision; a total of CHF 763,862 was received. The major contributions were received by the Swedish, Japanese, Monaco, including the equivalent value of CHF 26,738 covering in-kind personnel funding from the Canadian Red Cross to cover part of the costs of the Operations Manager. There remains a balance of CHF 23,392 in unearmarked funds which will be reallocated to support MRC's continued food security monitoring costs. Partners and donors who have any queries or require further clarification regarding this reallocation of the final balance of funds are kindly requested to [contact IFRC](#) within the next 30 days prior to integration of this balance into MRC's longer-term food security programme.

Lessons learned: Despite some obstacles in the implementation of the appeal, mostly due to the low and late funding and the inability of developing field agreements with WFP and UNICEF for food assistance, MRC managed to pick-up momentum on time to deliver essential services to the targeted beneficiaries.

- Once the National Society staff and volunteers had benefited from a series of specific training on screening, identification of beneficiaries, distribution, health and hygiene promotion, they demonstrated excellent capacities in delivering humanitarian assistance. The more MRC staff and volunteers got involved, the more they acquired knowledge and confidence.
- The procurement of improved seeds (sorghum, niébé (local beans) and water melon seeds) was completed for distributions between September and October 2012 to the 1,988 agro-pastoralist beneficiaries on time to benefit from the main rain planting season.
- The procurement of off-season vegetable seeds was also distributed on time to 18 women-led cooperatives engaged in market-gardening which began in November 2012.
- The direct on-going link between emergencies and mid-term operations encouraged beneficiaries to stay fully engaged,
- Through participation and monitoring the progress of the vegetable gardens, both beneficiaries and MRC volunteers have enthusiastically engaged in vegetable market gardening and learned new agriculture techniques through hands-on gardening. The impact on the yield of these gardens has increased resilience in terms of food security and also provided revenue, demonstrating a significant interest to remain involved in growing vegetables for the longer-term.
- The participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) activities in the host communities in Hod El Chargui and in the Malian refugee camp of M'Béra have reduced disease and prevented the break-out of epidemics.
- When community are involved at the early stage of the project, they adhere massively to the implementation phase.
- In order to implement a successful a food security project, the financial means should be available early on in the operation so that the seasonal calendar can be respected. In this operation, some early activities could not take place due to lack of early funding.
- Collaboration with technical partners (FAO, UNICEF and the Mauritanian authorities) was key to assuring quality services to the beneficiaries.
- Gender played a big role during this operation, men and women shared roles to reach the main objectives in fighting hunger.

- The ticketing system that was used when distributing the goats was efficient for avoiding conflicts or misunderstandings among beneficiaries.
- The use of senior women (Mamans Lumières), that MRC and French Red Cross have promoted and involved in longer-term food security operations over the years, are respected role-models that advocate breast-feeding and teach mothers on behaviour change and on how to improve the nutritional intake of children.
- The timeframe for implementing mid-term activities (community resilience) was too short. Monitoring by MRC staff and volunteers should continue in order to avoid any risk of failure since 8 months is not enough to guarantee community resilience.
- The feedback from the local authorities was positive as they appreciated the operations and at each opportunity praised the activities and the work of MRC and IFRC.
- There were no complaints voiced by the communities, the beneficiaries or the local authorities concerning the beneficiary identification process or the quality of the interventions.

[<click here for final financial report; or here for contact details>](#)

The situation

With a small population estimated at slightly over 3 million, farmers and agro-pastoralists are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate variation, drought, small-scale crises and face annually a five to six month “lean season”, with food shortage and hunger largely dependent on unpredictable rainfall. This situation has been draining the resources of the rural poor who face reoccurring food insecurity. To aggravate this chronic food crisis affecting similarly other countries of the Sahel, Mauritania has suffered from the poor harvest of 2011 due to the erratic rain which affected the annual grain production by 40 per cent under the five-year average food production. This combined with a general world increase in the food prices and the lack of access to good seeds has significantly impacted the income and purchasing power of the majority of the population and has led to a sharp increase in levels of food insecurity. In Mauritania one third of the population is food-insecure; the most vulnerable have been families affected by consecutive drought and food shortage not allowing them to recover their livestock or to build seed stocks. Unfortunately, mitigation for early recovery was not sufficiently supported as demonstrated by the general low funding received by most of the humanitarian organizations. Despite the numerous efforts and talks to boost the resilience of the affected communities in the Sahel countries, not enough was done to allow vulnerable families to be less reliant on food aid and more able to cope and adapt to the harsh climatic conditions and endemic poverty. By January 2012, the size of the food insecure reached over 700,000 people, with the highest risk groups being poor agro-pastoralist households depending on rain-fed farming.

Conditions in parts of the country were made worse by the various armed conflicts that broke out in northern Mali in early 2012, followed in January 2013 with the deployment of French troops backing up the Malian army to regain the northern territories which affected mostly the village Bassikounou in the commune of Fassala in the region of Hod Chargui in the south-eastern part of the country, close to the Malian border, limiting cross-border movement of people and goods. Up to 74,452 Malian refugees (source: UHCHR April 013), including 21,636 new arrivals recorded between January and March 2013 in M'Béra camp. The presence of Malian refugees and their cattle since last year in this drought-affected area has added pressure on the scarce resources such as food, water, fire wood, with the degradation of the sanitation and social facilities also straining the pastoral conditions advancing the seasonal transhumance of herds to September and October instead of the normal period of December and January.

Despite the fact that poor households in most parts of the country have depleted their household cereal stocks; the general smooth trade flows have ensured a good nationwide and region-wide food availability, also for livestock and for cereal trading at least through to the end of June 2013. The food insecurity of the poorest households has remained minimal due to the continued support operation of “boutiques de solidarité” (government-subsidized solidarity shops) that will run to the end of September, by which time the 2013 agriculture season should have kicked-in and the rains providing good pasture for livestock with wild foods available for households to eat.

Estimates for 2013, indicate that some 425,000 people will remain severely food insecure. Between 110,000 and 120,000 children under 5 years will continue to suffer from global acute malnutrition (GAM) with 23,000 cases suffering from severe malnutrition with about 17,000 pregnant and lactating women suffering from acute malnutrition. The intervention area of the food insecurity appeal in the region of Brakna, with a population of 309,307, will continue to record the highest malnutrition rates in the country with 4,904 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 13,824 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases. In the other areas of intervention in the region of Hod El Chargui hosting Malian refugees; estimates show 757 cases suffering from SAM and 13,917 suffering from MAM out of a population of 363,071 inhabitants.

There is confidence that the livelihood and income generating activities of this appeal have impacted positively on building the resilience of the targeted beneficiaries in the department of Maghtaa Lehjar, in the Brakna region. During the course of 2013, MRC will continue to monitor the beneficiary households particularly on the longer-term sustainability of distributed livestock and of the income generating activities.

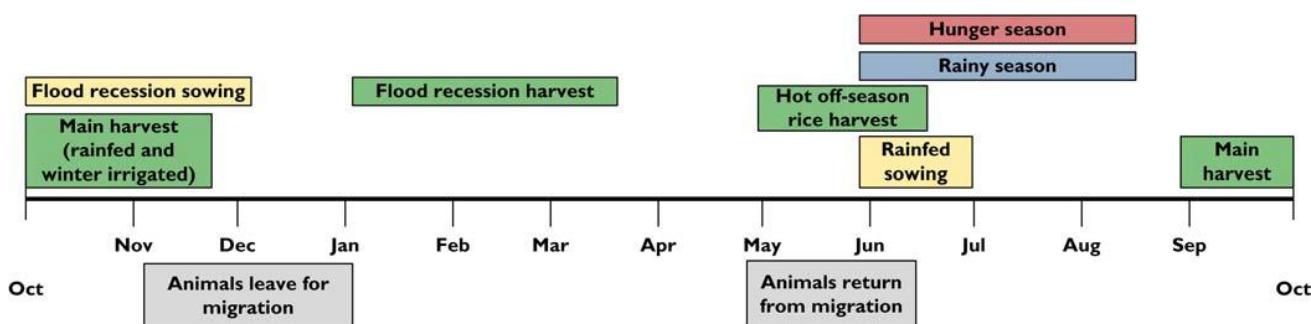
Coordination and partnerships

Throughout the operations, monthly coordination meetings between the components of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement present in-country¹ were held and chaired at the MRC headquarters. In April 2013 for its annual general assembly, all the National Societies from the Sahel region were invited to Nouakchott and took part in field visits accompanied by senior members of the IFRC to see the commendable achievements of the MRC that have taken place in response to the food insecurity operations.

MRC and IFRC have attended the monthly national and thematic coordination meetings with other local humanitarian actors present in Mauritania, including the UN agencies and the Mauritania Humanitarian Forum, which gather with the authorities who co-chair the session with OCHA. The MRC and IFRC have also attended the bi-weekly food security working group and coordination meetings on population movement under the joint leadership of UNHCR and the Ministry of the Interior as well as regular attendance to the water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and logistics clusters' meetings organized by UNICEF at the national level.

Coordinating activities based on the seasonal calendar was a critical tool which proved most useful for planning the activities and timing the seed distributions:

Seasonal calendar and timeline of critical events



Source: Fews net

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements against outcomes

Food distribution	
Outcome: The immediate food needs of the affected populations in the Brakna region (up to 7,000 households or 42,000 beneficiaries) are covered during the peak of the 2012 lean season.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Appropriate support for food distribution is provided to the vulnerable households during the lean season and monitoring of the situation is set-up and maintained in the target communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a monitoring and warning system (information on the evolution of prices, the situation, etc.). Develop partnerships with national and local food security stakeholders, especially with WFP and UNICEF (to cover provision of food). Train 80 volunteers and 20 distribution supervisors, mobilized for the emergency food distribution in the area of intervention.

¹ The Movement partners present in-country include the ICRC, IFRC and the French Red Cross (CRF)

Achievements: A monitoring and warning system was established to monitor the price of food and its effects on households in the areas of intervention. Regular information was reported back during the monthly meetings held at the National Society's headquarters.

Globally some 70 people, staff and volunteers have received training sessions that have taken place as follows:

- 30 volunteers and 5 staff members were trained on community based health and first aid (CBHFA) and received support material to conduct health and nutrition campaigns in the targeted communities.
- 12 volunteers were trained in health and nutrition activities (screening, distribution of rations, cooking demonstrations, improved nutritional intake, etc.) in collaboration with 23 Mamans Lumières, that have also benefited from training organized by UNICEF.

The 70 trained people (volunteers, National Society staff and Mamans Lumières) have conducted health education and sensitization campaigns and have kept close monitoring on how mothers care for their children in all 18 targeted beneficiary villages in the department of Maghta Lahjar in the Brakna region.

Challenges and constraints: Food assistance did not take place under this outcome. Despite initial contacts with both WFP and UNICEF, the National Society was not ready to engage in partnerships at this time. However, discussions have taken place for possible future partnership. During the food crisis WFP has been working mainly with the Mauritanian Food Security Commissioner country wide. Since food distributions did not take place under this section, the number of volunteers trained was a little less than planned under this outcome.

Health / Nutrition – Modified (revised)

Outcomes 1: Excess morbidity and mortality from diseases related to malnutrition are prevented by providing targeted nutrition interventions (for children aged 0 to 5 years), health and hygiene promotion to 72,000 beneficiaries (12,000 households) in the department of Maghta Lahjar (Brakna region) and in and in and around the M'Béra camps in the village of Bassikounou, commune of Fassala in the region of Hod Chargui (south-eastern part of the country).

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The health status of the population is improved through early detection and treatment of malnutrition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 80 volunteers and community health workers on health and nutrition promotion for conducting health education campaigns (CBHFA), as well as screening and referral (this includes volunteers working in Gorgol with CRF). • Support the logistics and material support for the 80 volunteers (transport, information education and communication (IEC) material, etc.) to enable them to conduct a minimum of two interventions per volunteer per week for health promotion. • Organize 240 thematic discussions per month with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, on reproduction health, breastfeeding (promotion of exclusive breastfeeding of the child • 0-6 months), infant nutrition (good nutritional practice based on local products for children from 6 to 59 months old), and social mobilization for immunization. • Establish one mobile screening unit to screen and manage moderate to severe malnutrition cases without medical complications (this is run in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, which provides medical staff). • Equip one mobile unit with materials and working tools. • Establish five <i>centres nutritionnels</i> (feeding centres) and identify the <i>Mamans Lumières</i> (Light Mothers) in the remote villages to help set up, run and monitor the community-based management of the malnourished. • Conduct a long-term nutritional research project.

Achievements: The Mamans Lumières, engaged as knowledgeable and respected mother-figures among the targeted villages have actively contributed to the health and nutrition campaigns. A total of 23 Mamans Lumières have received IEC material, along with the necessary training to carry out improved health and hygiene campaigns; promote change in food and nutritional behaviour with a particular focus on mothers, pregnant and lactating women. The training sessions have included food and water management; CBHFA, promotion of breastfeeding and appropriate nutritional practices. These activities have contributed to positive changes in the behaviour of the targeted communities and the cases of acute malnutrition have disappeared.

The 23 Mamans Lumières ensured that the food that was distributed to malnourished children under five was properly used and will continue their sensitisation activities throughout the lean period of 2013.

As of April 2012, one mobile unit was established and operational. The unit consists of land cruiser, medicines, food and nutritional tools. The unit is accompanied by a nurse (deployed by the Ministry of Health), a nutritionist and MRC volunteers that have been put in charge of screening and managing severe malnutrition cases, with complicated pathologies referred to the health centre of Maghtaa Lehjar run by Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without borders). The mobile unit has provided medical assistance to 1,318 people, of which the majority were malnourished children under five years old as well as breastfeeding and pregnant mothers.



Volunteers screen a child for signs of malnutrition in the Brakna region. Photo: IFRC/MRCS

By the end of December 2012, a total of 3,574 children from 2,660 households were screened; 1,036 children were found with general acute malnutrition (GAM) and enrolled in programmes for special care and assistance.

Of the 1,036 GAM children screened: 660 suffered from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 376 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) that were integrated in the supplementary feeding programme. Among them four children suffering from severe complications unfortunately died during the whole programme.

A total of 9,676kg of enriched flour, 968 litres of cooking oil and 774 kg of sugar were distributed by trained volunteers to the families of identified malnourished children under 5 years old.

All the involved staff and volunteers have facilitated interventions according to the needs in screening children and distributed the

appropriate quantity of food to malnourished children during the height of the food insecurity crisis (April – December). As part of its annual development plan for 2013, MRC volunteers are preparing interventions during the lean season between May to July 2013.

From the 240 thematic discussions planned, a much larger number of discussions took place with a total of 472 organized by the technical teams targeting households with GAM, pregnant and breastfeeding women, promoting exclusive breastfeeding of infants from 0 to 6 months and on education on good nutritional practices based on local available products (for children from 6 to 59 months old).

In M'Béra camp and around, **643** households have been sensitized for hygiene and health promotion.



Children suffering from malnutrition receiving food assistance. Photo: IFRC/MRCS

Challenges and constraints: Because of limited funding, activities under this outcome only partly addressed the needs of the Malian refugees in M'Béra camp or the host communities in the village of Bassikounou .

The operational timeframe did not allow a long-term nutritional research project to be achieved. However MRC is committed to carry this out in future and contacts are being made on the availability of research. Although the acute malnutrition cases have disappeared among the targeted beneficiaries; communities will continue to face the challenges of food insecurity. Volunteers, health workers and Mamans Lumières need to continue to monitor closely the food security situation in the communities and advise mothers on how to prevent acute malnutrition cases. The 2013 lean season has begun and



Functional water points rehabilitated with solar powered pumps. Photo: IFRC/MRCS

measures have been taken by the authorities with subsidized food shops to avoid the risk of communities being faced with a reoccurring food crises. Should this support fail, agro-pastoral families risk resorting to eating the seeds put aside for the next planting season.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	
Outcome: Improved availability and quality of water and the hygiene and sanitation for 42,000 beneficiaries (7,000 households is available in 18 localities in the Department of Maghtaa Lehar, in the Brakna, for nine months.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Access to drinking water for the 7,000 households as well as water for the cattle in the Maghtaa Lehar Department is improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish and protect five water points in the selected villages. • Install five solar systems on the refurbished or new water points put in place and train five water point management committees. • Train and equip five pump repair technicians. • Procure a Delagua kit to support water provision at local level. • Check water quality in the target households. • Monitor, evaluate and prepare activity reports.
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The health conditions of the 7,000 households are improved through activities targeting behaviour change and hygiene promotion in the Maghtaa Lehar Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 64 (instead of 60) volunteers and community health workers on WASH and PHAST to act as hygiene promotion and behaviour change agents. • Make 300 copies of the existing awareness raising materials. • Organize one awareness-raising campaign per month in each department and one campaign per month in each target village for 3 months, to promote health, hygiene, and water treatment.

Achievements: Between June and August 2012 a total of 283m³ of drinking water was delivered to 636 households, 3,816 beneficiaries and their livestock in the Maghtaa Lehar Department that formerly did not have direct access to clean water. Three water points were rehabilitated and installed with solar powered systems to serve 1,150 households (6,900 beneficiaries) and two garden wells were rehabilitated and equipped with motor pump systems. The total 10,716 beneficiaries under this outcome benefit from access to water.

The other activities include the following:

- Five water points have been refurbished in the villages of Zemmour, Leglaybatt, Laweijya, Karama I and Karama II. The water points have been installed with solar system activated pumps; while the wells of sites named Karama I and Karama II have been rehabilitated and installed with motor-pump systems to facilitate the watering of vegetables gardens.
- Five water point management committees were identified, trained and are operational for the long term upkeep of the irrigation systems. Five pump repair technicians were trained during the installation of the water points.
- The Delagua kit (a mobile kit used to measure and control the biological water quality) and other hardware were purchased and installed in Maghtaa Lehar with regular monitoring of the water quality of households.

Since July 2012, the awareness campaigns and demonstrations on water chlorination and water treatment were conducted in 764 households from 14 targeted villages that received 36,086 chlorine tablets were distributed to chlorinate 36,086 litres of water. During the sessions 300 copies of IEC awareness materials were distributed.



A concrete basin constructed for the watering of livestock in the Brakna region. Photo: IFRC/MRCS

Weekly update reports and monthly reports were shared within the Movement, partners and other cluster actors. Regular field visits were conducted as well.

The Delagua kit will be made available at the NS headquarters to allow other partners in need to use it. Directly and indirectly, the health conditions of 7,000 households were improved through activities targeting behaviour change and hygiene promotion in the Maghtaa Lehar Department.

The sensitization and hygiene campaigns were rolled out by trained volunteers that organised PHAST mobilizing sessions in the communities to promote good hygiene and improve

behaviour in sanitation practices. Between August 2012 and April 2013, 16 awareness campaigns were organised both in the department and in the villages. Communities themselves have taken the lead in organizing regular campaign on hygiene and health behaviour change.

Challenges and constraints: Regular monitoring is needed to make sure the water point are maintained in good working order. Even though the management committees have been trained, the local committee of MRC and the technician should continue to keep close watch since the materials used are expensive (solar panel, pump, etc.) and could become a big burden to the communities if not well maintained.

With the late funding of the appeal and the lack of human resources in place early in the operations, training of the volunteers started late. Moreover, the health and hygiene campaigns must be organised in collaboration with the authorities and communities. Changing the behaviour of a community is a slow and long process, volunteers need to establish a plan of action (with objectives and targets), and work accordingly with the communities.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Outcome: Improve sanitation and hygiene promotion for 21,000 refugees (3,500 households) in M'Béra camp and 9,000 beneficiaries (1.500 hosting households) in the commune of Fassala, in the department of Bassikounou, in the region of Hod Chargui, at the south-eastern part of the country.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The risk of waterborne and water related diseases are reduced through sanitation and hygiene promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 120 sessions on hygiene promotion and sanitation services using PHAST approach Increase knowledge on good hygiene practice and maintaining a clean and health environment in the camp as well as in the surrounding villages in the commune of Fassala.
Knowledge and skills of the 120 MRC volunteers (trained during the DREF operation) in water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct 4 trainings / refresher courses on PHAST, water supply, sanitation, for 120 volunteers, coaches and staff in the affected branches within 3 months

Achievements: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through sanitation and hygiene promotion with 120 volunteers (60 refugees and 60 MRC community volunteers) of Bassikounou that have conducted sanitation and hygiene sensitization sessions in and around M'Béra camp. Waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through these sensitisation campaigns. The reports received from the health centres indicate that cases of water born related disease have reduced.



CBHFA training of MRCS volunteers.
Photo: IFRC/MRCS

In cooperation with other partners such as OXFAM and UNICEF, the knowledge and the rolling out of good hygiene practice has increased awareness and has contributed to maintaining a clean and healthy environment in the camp as well as in the surrounding villages in the commune of Fassala where volunteers have conducted regular sessions 2013. As of end of March, 643 households (389 from the camps and 254 households surrounding the camp) in the village of Bassikounou were visited and sensitized.

Up to 3,333 beneficiaries (54% refugees and 46% host families living around the M'Béra refugee camps) have received NFIs consisting of 1,200 mosquitoes nets; 1,200 blankets; 3,000 bars of soap of 500g; 1,200 litres of bleach; 600 litres of sleet; 600 sleeping mats of 5m; 600 buckets; 600 jerry cans and 600 kitchen sets.

- ✓ 60 volunteers have conducted sanitation and hygiene promotion in M'Béra camp and among the hosting population. Waterborne and water related diseases have reduced due to the sensitisation campaigns.
- ✓ Awareness sessions on water, sanitation and hygiene targeting 32,486 persons (4,729 households) were organized.
- ✓ MRCS volunteers distributed NFIs to 6,000 new refugee beneficiaries assisted by the ICRC.

Training and refresher courses on PHAST, water supply, sanitation have benefited 120 volunteers, coaches and staff in the affected branches of the region of Hod Chargui. Two refresher training courses took place within a three months' timeframe.

Challenges and constraints: M'Béra camp is located at 1,500km from Nouakchott which is a great distance to travel on difficult terrain with roads often covered by sand. It can take up to three days to travel that distance which has affected the regular monitoring of the activities. Due to the distance and the low funding it was not possible to meet the full planned beneficiary caseload.

Livelihoods	
Outcome: Secure and increase livelihoods ahead of the height of the crisis and prevent the negative coping strategies of 1,752 (instead of 7,000) affected households in the Brakna region for nine months.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Targeted support to 10 affected villages (1,752 households) in Brakna to assist most vulnerable households to food insecurity, through community-based activities (market-gardening, non-farm income generation activities, training (IGA))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify beneficiaries Establish / train 10 management committees. Support 18 (instead of 10) operational market-gardens by establishing irrigated schemes equipped with solar energy, and provide quality seeds, plant protection products and tools.
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Build the capacity of 1,988 hardest hit agro pastoralists in 2011 (with no harvest or with <20% harvest) to prepare for the next crop year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify beneficiaries among the families with malnourished children under the age of five Distribute quality seeds and tools to 1,988 agro pastoralist households (to 16 villages as per the table). Organize 10 training sessions on improved farming techniques Monitor and assess the training and distribution Elaborate and implement an exit strategy
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The safety net and the agro pastoralist system are enhanced to increase the resilience capacity of 900 households of vulnerable agro pastoralists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make emergency assessment of needs and capacities Develop a system of identification and registration of beneficiaries in order to provide the planned assistance Identify beneficiaries among the families with malnourished children under the age of five Identify small livestock traders and fodder providers Transport and store the fodder/feeds Distribute 1,800 small livestock to 900 vulnerable households through the organization of animal fairs Distribute fodder and feeds to 1,800 small livestock Organize four (instead of six training) sessions on best cattle feeding and care practices. Develop and implement an exit strategy
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
900 households with structural vulnerability have access to additional source of income to support their livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash for work / food for work within the most vulnerable communities: Community projects (dykes, small dykes, community boutiques, market-gardening) Installation of 4,000 metres of protection fence around fields threatened by stray animals

Achievements: Despite delays in implementation due to the lack of funding and pending the arrival of the needed international technical staff, one of the main objectives of building the food security of 1,988 agro-pastoralist households, that were the hardest hit during 2011 harvest in 16 villages in the Brakna region was achieved on time to benefit from the rain season. Close to 22 tonnes of seeds were distributed from 17 September to 2 October 2012 still on time for the main planting season. The identification of beneficiaries took place with the local authorities and community leaders and selected according to the following criteria:

1. To be a farmer from the region.
2. A resident of one of the villages.
3. Own or have access to land.
4. Benefit from no other support.

Table 1: Seed distribution to 1,988 agro-pastoralist households in 16 villages in the region of Brakna, took place from 17 September to 2 October 2012 at the following distribution sites on time for the main rain season and produced a substantial yield.

Village name	Households	Beneficiary households	Quantities			Total seeds in kg	Pesticide	Exploited land in hectares	Total yield after harvest in tonnes
			Sorghum	Cowpea (nifebe)	Watermelon				
Distribution side of Laweja - benefiting the five villages of:									
Idenbiya	100	100	270	270	200	740	17	2	37
Laweija	600	350	810	810	600	2,220	51	6	156
Chelkhet Rihe	200	100	810	810	600	2,220	51	6	146
Wad Rkaiz	150	100	270	270	200	740	17	2	21.5
Gwelwai	450	200	540	540	400	1,480	34	4	118
Distribution site of Mechrou - benefiting the four villages of:									
Legleibat	260	100	608	608	450	1,665	38	4.5	160.4
Barelet Ideynib	120	120	540	540	400	1,480	34	4	52.5
Mechrou Agweinita	450	200	540	540	400	1,480	34	4	155.5
Diout	100	100	270	270	200	740	17	2	26
Distribution site of Tachot, department of Maghta Lahjar, benefiting the six villages of:									
Aguerj Lekbir	150	100	540	540	400	1,480	34	4	103.5
Tachot	400	150	608	608	450	1,665	38	4.5	122
Lehneikatt	55	55	270	270	200	740	17	2	41.2
El Adle	15	15	540	540	400	1,480	34	4	12.7
N'Dalaye	98	98	338	338	250	925	21	2.5	70.5
Imat Silayene	200	100	270	270	200	740	17	2	25.6
Tichoten village									
Tichoutene	130	100	675	675	500	1,850	42	5	169.1
Total	3,478	1,988	7,898	7,898	5,850	21,645	497	58.5	1,531.80

Caring for the environment is always at the fore-front of food security activities, however, the seed distributions did include pesticides since attacks of locusts and other pest during the rainy season are frequent and extremely destructive to crops. After the harvest, the communities managed to store a sufficient quantity of seeds for the next planting season.

Subsequently 28 agro-pastoral cooperatives from 18 villages were assisted with seeds, tools and technical guidance as follows:

- 18 market-garden cooperatives(1,752 households) received vegetable seeds, tools, pesticides and technical guidance;

- 10 other cooperatives only received technical guidance on improved gardening techniques and coaching.

The 18 supported operational market-garden cooperatives also benefited from irrigation schemes equipped with solar energy, quality seeds, pesticides and tools. 19 instead of 10 management committees were identified and trained in improved gardening methods and techniques, on irrigation, soil preparation and on a balanced use of pesticides and fertilizer, etc. After training, a plan of action was established and the participants were committed to share their acquired knowledge with the remaining inhabitants of the villages.

By the end of April 2013, all 28 cooperatives were assisted with a combination of tools (sprayers and watering cans) and seeds and technical guidance, or all three. All the vegetables were grown on 8 hectares of land.

- ✓ The first distribution campaign of vegetables seeds was adapted to the fresh season that began in December 2012 and was harvested between March and April, consisting of: cabbages, lettuce, eggplants, carrots, hot and sweet peppers, tomatoes, beets, turnips and onions.
- ✓ The second seed distribution campaign adapted for the dry season for planting between April and May, will be harvested June and July 2013 and consists of cucumber, squash, okra, and water melon.

A total of 14 training sessions (instead of 10) were organised with 129 participants from 24 villages. The training focused on the theory and practice of modern agricultural techniques. 10 community volunteers were trained on distribution techniques and were in charge of monitoring agricultural activities. Communities and local structures were mobilised and are committed to continue with the activities.

Consultation on building a safety nets for families of children suffering from malnutrition took place with the communities where it was found that goats were the most resistant to the harsh climate, among the sturdiest small livestock to raise, that the communities were used to raising them, they are extremely prolific and provide milk with high nutritional value. The plan was that each of the targeted 283 households with children that had suffered from malnutrition and that had benefited from the screening and nutritional programme in the 18 villages in the department of Maghtaa Lehjar, were to receive 2 female goats per child. This support intended to assure that the child gets fresh milk and the family some income generation through reproduction and the selling of off-spring. Out of the 566 goats planned to be distributed, only 70 were in fact distributed as the funding did not allow the full quantity to be bought. The distribution was done simultaneously with three week worth of fodder rations that took place at the same time as the goat distribution. A steering committee, including a veterinary, was set up to approve the quality of goats before the distributions. Three training sessions on the best feeding and care methods were also organised with the veterinary of the Department of Maghtaa Lehjar. The training of the beneficiaries has paved the way to the exit strategy and assure that the local MRC committee will continue to monitor this community and particularly for any signs of malnutrition.

Helping households facing structural vulnerabilities with income and cash for work (CFW) programmes was provided to 234 persons from Mechrou village that were involved in CFW activities during 30 days. Thanks to the CFW programme and the distribution of agricultural materials (80 shovels, 60 wheelbarrows, 80 picks, gloves, 1,200 masks, 10 ribbons of 5 meters, 30 bars, 10 coils of rope, 30 hammers of 5kg) and were able to rehabilitate a dyke of 700m. long and 2.40m high on time before the rain season. In addition, 1,752 women in the cooperative of Karama I were able to generate income from the sale of their vegetables.

As a fence and in order to protect the vegetables from heavy winds and animals, 600 acacia trees have been planted around 18 vegetable gardens.

In the three villages of Tachot, Aguerj Lekbir and Tijikine, a village in the Maghta Lahjar, not indicated in the above seed distribution table, a total of 430 households have been assisted in setting-up community shops with basic household supplies such as sugar, salt, oil, rice, bread which has improve their income generation.

Challenges and constraints: Some of the activities such as dyke building started late due to late funding and the lack of technical expertise in-country.

One agricultural planting season is not sufficient to determine whether the cooperatives have acquired enough experiences and competences to grow vegetables adopting appropriately new techniques. It is hoped that sufficient funding from some left-over funds can be allocated for monitoring, coaching and in guiding the communities for the

coming months. Depending on the next harvest yields and the positive momentum demonstrated by the women will justify rolling-out similar livelihood programmes to reinforce other villages in the region.

Due to the chronic food insecurity in the region of Brakna, it is extremely difficult for the community to spare seeds for planting. When the lean season stretches on, the communities are compelled to consume the seeds rather than save them for the next planting season. Another factor that impact food insecurity in Mauritania is that improved seeds are not available in the local market and are only found in Nouakchott. Farmers from the rural areas often do not have any other choice than to purchase non improved seeds, often producing very low yield crop.

It was felt as a general disappointment that the full planned amount of goats could not be purchased and distributed due to lack of funding. However, the MRC will continue to monitor that households of malnourished children respect the agreements of keeping the goats for milk mainly to assure the nutrition of children. The veterinary should be closer to the beneficiaries for technical guidance and coaching and define together other coping mechanisms for their livestock. Additional funding should focus on distributing the remaining livestock to remaining beneficiaries.

Income generating activities are one of the strategies of strengthening livelihoods. By involving and mobilising communities right from the start, the impact of the outcomes comes much faster. The National Society will need to set appropriate systems to encourage and monitor such activities in the field.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR)	
Outcome: Build the resilience of target communities in order to enable them to better resist future shocks and disasters, through specific, targeted DRR activities in the Brakna region.	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned activities
Food insecurity preparedness and DRR strategies are improved in the vulnerable communes of the Brakna and Bassikounou	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train ten (10) food security supervisors on early warning, assessment and data collection on food security as well as malnutrition, among the 80 volunteers to be trained on health and nutrition (joint trainings) • Promote fodder crops in the agro pastoralist localities where water is permanently available (Tichotoune and Foun Gleita), on the occasion of the monthly awareness-raising campaigns • Develop and test disaster response community plans for the communities most frequently affected by hazards in the intervention region.
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The DRR approaches are integrated in all recovery activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish three community earthen dykes and three community earthen small dykes for agriculture in the commune of Foun Gleita and Maghtaa Lehjar • Organize three training sessions on processing agricultural products and nutrition education • Create in Maghtaa Lehjar an experimental garden of 400 m² of vetiver to serve as protective hedge for the dykes and small dykes in areas at risk of erosion in the Brakna • Plant 120 lines of never-die (<i>Moringa oleifera</i>) on the 10 target community plots for market-gardening • Initiate university-based research to be conducted jointly by a student/researcher at a specialized university and a Mauritanian student on the recurrence of the issue of malnutrition

Achievements: Eight volunteers were trained on over-seeing the food security activities; five water and sanitation management committees were established and operational; 30 volunteers received training in community based health and first aid (CBHFA) and established PHAST group in the community to find solution to hygiene problems. During the CBHFA training, 15 volunteers were trained on vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) and acquired different techniques in early warning systems, assessment, data collection, data analysis and formulating a plan of action. These volunteers will remain in the communities. The final total of trained volunteers was lower than originally targeted due to funding and timeframe constraints, but efforts will continue to support some of these activities in the longer-term.

A 700m dike has been rehabilitated in Mechrou to protect a dam of 20 hectares of irrigated land allowing the plantation of maize, sorghum and cowpeas where 155 tonnes of crops have been harvested and allowing the communities to water their animals when they previously had to find water at 15km from their village.

A total of 14 training sessions were organised for 129 beneficiaries on food security and improved agricultural techniques. A model garden of 500m² was identified and put in place to allow farmers to learn from best practices and apply them to their gardens. This space was used as a testing-ground for growing some special seeds and subsequently to distribute them to the beneficiaries. Seed-beds were grown in the experimental garden and Moringa oleifera (Nebedaye), a sturdy soil enriching and nourishing tree among others was planted in all the beneficiary gardens. In addition, 600 acacia have been purchased and planted in 18 gardens as wind breakers and as a hedge against the incursion of animals.

Challenges and constraints: Time did not allow testing the disaster response capacities of the communities faced with hazards and MRC will need to establish strong measures to manage volunteers and organise the refresher course with simulations exercises.

National Society capacity building	
Outcome : The emergency intervention capacities of the MRC local committees in the target regions are strengthened	
Output (expected results)	Activities planned
The emergency intervention capacities of the local committees in the intervention area are strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop income generating activities(IGAs) for the local committees in order for them to gain minimum income for covering the daily operational costs and other fixed charges (<i>these IGAs will consist in the running of small shops, tailors and other small business activities</i>). • Train 80 volunteers of the four local committees in the intervention area of community health workers on Community-Based Health First Aid (CBHFA). • Develop and test the disaster preparedness and response contingency plan for each local committee.

Achievements: Throughout the operation, the staff and volunteers of MRC have been trained in water and sanitation, food security and nutrition, agricultural techniques, CBHFA. The local committee of Maghtaa Lehjar has been assisted in income generating activity to allow them some autonomy in carrying out operational and monitoring activities.

The local committee has been managing the experimental pilot garden and the harvest from that garden belongs to the local committee. The income they receive from the sale of vegetables was used for daily operational costs and monitoring activities. To reinforce the capacity of the National Society and enable them to monitor the activities, four laptop computers were provided to the staff and the conference room of the MRC committee has been equipped with modern IT materials and sound system.

A total of 30 volunteers have been trained in CBHFA and set community teams to promote health challenges and work with the communities to find solutions. An additional 12 volunteers have been trained on health and nutrition and work with the 23 Mamans Lumières who have been health promoters in the communities. During the CBHFA training, volunteers organised a VCA in one of the localities; prepared an evaluation, gathered information, analysed information and then produced a plan of action according to the major challenges found. A room has been constructed to allow volunteers to rest and to refresh on their training sessions.

Challenges and constraints: The set-up of the local committee of Maghtaa Lehjar is not yet complete and the MRC management is planning to set new structures and revive the volunteers' base as well in the longer-term.

Logistics / Administration

IFRC in Mauritania and Sahel regional office has been providing logistics support to the MRC in implementing the operation, including support in administration and finance. The regional senior logistics officer was deployed for two months to support the MRC in establishing the supply chain and monitoring the movements of stocks, from the starting point to final distribution point. The senior officer also trained the MRC logistics assistant in proper logistics management and processes; in addition she supported the National Society finance officer to monitor the logistics and the financial procedures and with administrative tasks. The IFRC regional representation has supported the National Society in fleet management of the vehicles needed during operation whilst the Dubai Regional Logistics Unit has supported the operation for international procurement of goods and vehicles as needed. The recruitment of a permanent administration and logistician was secured to manage all MRC logistics needs at the HQ.

IT / Telecom

The MRC IT system was poor at the start of the operations and in order to facilitate communications between all National Society staff, volunteers and the IFRC delegates, telephones with group calling were purchased and distributed to all involved in the operation. This system has proved effective and functioning while radios were not yet installed in the vehicle. Apart from GFU phones, the field teams received computers and internet modems. As of today, the IT system is operational with DDI installations in all offices and vehicles. There are gaps within the permanent staff for all IT equipment maintenance.

Communications

An information officer was sent to Mauritania to develop and produce communication promotion material to highlight the operation's achievements and specifically to document the distribution by MRC / IFRC of the seeds for community agriculture, which took place in 16 villages in September 2012. Later on, a communication team from Dakar and Addis came and published the operation's achievements on the IFRC's website (news and media-new stories-Africa) on 29 April 2013 and 2 May 2013. A video coverage has been organised and will be made available in the course of 2013. An informal leaflet on the operations achievements was produced and shared among close partners.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- **Mauritanian Red Crescent:** Mohamed Lemine Ould Mohamed Vall, President; phone +222 43 42 41 00; email: medleminr@yahoo.fr
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Momodou Lamin Fye, Regional Representative for Sahel; Dakar; phone: +221 33 869 36 41 or +221 77 332 56 72; email: momodoulamin.fye@ifrc.org
- **IFRC DMU:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Logistics:** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Zone Logistics Unit, Nairobi; phone +254 (0)731 067 489; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Loïc de Bastier, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for Africa; Addis Ababa; phone: +251-93-003 4013; fax: +251-11-557 0799; email: loic.debastier@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER/QA Delegate for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRMR004 - Mauritania - Complex Emergencies

Timeframe: 22 Dec 11 to 30 Apr 13

Appeal Launch Date: 22 Dec 11

FINAL Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2011/12-2013	Programme	MDRMR004
Budget Timeframe	2011/12-2013	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		1,009,509				1,009,509	
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
Income							
Cash contributions							
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		70,300				70,300	
<i>On Line donations</i>		14,556				14,556	
<i>Other</i>		-95				-95	
<i>Red Cross of Monaco</i>		36,132				36,132	
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		600,037				600,037	
<i>The Canadian Red Cross Society</i>		15,932				15,932	
C1. Cash contributions		736,862				736,862	
Inkind Personnel							
<i>The Canadian Red Cross Society</i>		26,700				26,700	
C3. Inkind Personnel		26,700				26,700	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		763,562				763,562	
D. Total Funding = B + C		763,562				763,562	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
C. Income		763,562				763,562	
E. Expenditure		-740,470				-740,470	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		23,091				23,091	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRM004 - Mauritania - Complex Emergencies

Timeframe: 22 Dec 11 to 30 Apr 13

Appeal Launch Date: 22 Dec 11

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			1,009,509			1,009,509		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Construction - Facilities	50,781		4,744			4,744	46,037	
Food	28,125		21,392			21,392	6,733	
Seeds & Plants	107,243		86,214			86,214	21,029	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	20,781		20,494			20,494	287	
Medical & First Aid	26,250		18,652			18,652	7,598	
Teaching Materials	80,781		33,998			33,998	46,783	
Utensils & Tools	2,881		66			66	2,815	
Other Supplies & Services	180,428		22,158			22,158	158,270	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	497,270		207,718			207,718	289,552	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	14,968		5,098			5,098	9,870	
Office & Household Equipment	313						313	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	15,281		5,098			5,098	10,183	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	938		400			400	538	
Distribution & Monitoring	11,563		10,319			10,319	1,244	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	58,563		54,626			54,626	3,937	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	71,064		65,344			65,344	5,720	
Personnel								
International Staff	169,844		203,393			203,393	-33,549	
National Staff	15,000		6,288			6,288	8,712	
National Society Staff	50,750		75,765			75,765	-25,015	
Volunteers	11,055		9,998			9,998	1,057	
Total Personnel	246,649		295,445			295,445	-48,796	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	313		22,371			22,371	-22,058	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	313		22,371			22,371	-22,058	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	47,500		39,553			39,553	7,947	
Total Workshops & Training	47,500		39,553			39,553	7,947	
General Expenditure								
Travel	14,000		13,816			13,816	184	
Information & Public Relations	15,459		8,012			8,012	7,447	
Office Costs	13,966		13,722			13,722	244	
Communications	14,831		9,483			9,483	5,348	
Financial Charges	11,563		3,755			3,755	7,808	
Other General Expenses			1,000			1,000	-1,000	
Shared Office and Services Costs			10,178			10,178	-10,178	
Total General Expenditure	69,819		59,967			59,967	9,852	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	61,613		43,472			43,472	18,141	
Total Indirect Costs	61,613		43,472			43,472	18,141	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee			1,102			1,102	-1,102	
Pledge Reporting Fees			400			400	-400	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRMR004 - Mauritania - Complex Emergencies

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Budget Timeframe	2011/12-2013	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			1,009,509			1,009,509		
Total Pledge Specific Costs			1,502			1,502	-1,502	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,009,509		740,470			740,470	269,039	
VARIANCE (C - D)			269,039			269,039		

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRMR004 - Mauritania - Complex Emergencies**

Timeframe: 22 Dec 11 to 30 Apr 13

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	1,009,509	0	763,562	763,562	740,470	23,091	
Subtotal BL2	1,009,509	0	763,562	763,562	740,470	23,091	
GRAND TOTAL	1,009,509	0	763,562	763,562	740,470	23,091	